

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART NIACT IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO

CINCUEUR

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSAREUR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0373

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD AND OPS

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E. O. 11612: NGDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, WB

USUBJECT: BERLIN CDU LEADER KIDNAPPED

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REF: A. USBERLIN 369
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1. SUMMARY: SENAT HAS RECONFIRMED ITS DECISION THAT ITS FIRST PRIORITY IS TO SAVE LORENZ LIFE. IT IS THEREFORE PREPARED TO ACCEDE TO ALL OF KIDNAPPERS DEMANDS, AND FRG IS EXPECTED TO COOPERATE BY RELEASING THREE PRISONERS PRESENTLY HELD IN STUTTGART. ALLIES HAVE INDICATED TO US THEY HAVE NO DESIRE TO SECOND-GUESS THESE GERMAN DECISIONS. SIGNIFICANT LOGISTICAL QUESTIONS, STEMMING FROM SPECIAL BERLIN AIR REGIME, REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED, HOWEVER, AND ALLIED INPUT WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE REQUIRED.

SPECIFICALLY, IF SENAT IS UNABLE TO LOCATE ALLIED FLAG AIRLINE WILLING TO PROVIDE CHARGER FOR TRANSPORTING FRG PRISONERS FROM STUGGART TO BERLIN AND FOR FLYING TERRORISTS FROM BERLIN TO DESTINATION OF THEIR CHOOSING, ALLIES MAY COME UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE.

END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING IS TIMETABLE SET BY TERRORISTS:

A) THREE INDIVIDUALS PRESENTLY IN BERLIN JAIL IN CONNECTION WITH NOVEMBER 1974 VON DRENKMANN DEMONSTRATIONS (NOT KILLING) ARE TO BE RELEASED FEBRUARY 28 AND THEIR CONVICTIONS QUASHED.

B) THREE BAADER-MEINHOF TERRORISTS, BECKER, KROESCHER-TIEDEMANN AND MAHLER, ARE TO BE RELEASED FROM BERLIN JAILS FEBRUARY 28.

C) THREE BAADER-MEINHOF TERRORISTS HELD IN STUTTGART, POHLE, SIEPMANN AND HEISSLER, ARE ALSO TO BE RELEASED FROM JAIL FEBRUARY 28.

D) THREE STUTTGART TERRORISTS ARE TO BE FLOWN TO BERLIN MARCH 1 AT LATEST.

E) ALL RELEASED PRISONERS, LORENZ' KIDNAPPERS, AND PROMINENT HOSTAGE TO BE EXCHANGED FOR LORENZ (FORMER GOVERNING MAYOR ALBERTZ IS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED

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BUT HAS NOT YET BEEN LOCATED BY BERLIN AUTHORITIES) ARE TO BE FLOWN FROM BERLIN AIRPORT (KIDNAPPERS DID NOT SPECIFY WHICH AIRPORT) BY MARCH 2 AT LATEST.

3. SENAT AND FRG INTEND TO TAKE STEPS A, B, AND C IMMEDIATELY AND TO ANNOUNCE THIS OVER RADIO AND TELEVISION TO KIDNAPPERS (WHO HAVE INDICATED THIS IS ONLY METHOD OF COMMUNICATION THEY WILL ACCEPT). APPARENTLY

NO EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO FOLLOW PRISONERS RELEASED FROM BERLIN JAILS LEST THIS GIVE ALARM TO THOSE HOLDING LORENZ. STEPS D AND E RAISE SPECIAL PROBLEMS, HOWEVER, SINCE ONLY ALLIED FLAG AIRLINES MAY USE CORRIDORS TO FLY TO BERLIN. HEAD OF SENAT CHANCELLERY HERZ HAS ALREADY TOLD US SENAT WILL WISH ALLIES TO USE GOOD OFFICES TO ENSURE THAT ALLIED PLANES AVAILABLE PRESUMABLY STARTING AT STUTTGART ON MARCH 1, AND AGAIN FOR MARCH 2 FLIGHT FROM BERLIN. WE HAVE INDICATED TO HIM, WITH FULL CONCURRENCE OF ALLIED MINISTERS, THAT AT THIS POINT WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO APPROACH AIRLINES SINCE, IN LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE LAST DECEMBER WITH TRANSPORT OF MEINHOF FROM BERLIN TO STUTTGART, IT WAS AGREED THAT SENAT SHOULD MAKE EFFORT TO OBTAIN PLANE ON CHARTER IN SUCH SITUATIONS. BRITISH IN PARTICULAR FEEL STRONGLY ON THIS POINT. SENAT SHOULD ACCORDINGLY BE IN TOUCH WITH CHARTER CANDIDATES AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 28. IF IT HAS NO SUCCESS BY END OF AFTERNOON, HOWEVER, WE CAN EXPECT TO RECEIVE HEAVY PRESSURE FROM BOTH SENAT AND FRG TO FIND SOLUTION IN TIME TO MEET MARCH 1 DEADLINE.

4. OUR FIRST INCLINATION IS TO SUGGEST THAT, IF PURELY GERMAN EFFORTS ARE NOT SUCCSSFUL, FRENCH TAKE LEAD SINCE (A) THEY WILL BE CHAIRMAN OF KOMMANDATURA MARCH 1; (B) THEIR AIRPORT TEGEL IS MORE SUITABLE STAGING PLACE FOR FLIGHT OF BOEING 707 OR OTHER LONG-RANGE AIRCRAFT; AND (C) FRENCH PROVIDED UNILATERAL ASSISTANCE WITH MEINHOF. WE WOULD NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY, PARTICULARLY IF GERMANS APPLY DIRECT PRESSURE IN PARIS, THAT FRENCH WOULD BE WILLING TO ORDER AIR FRANCE TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION. IF FRENCH WISH TO OBTAIN MORE ALLIED COVER THAN PREVIOUS TIME, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO AGREE TO ALLIED APPROACH

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TO AIR LINES BY FRENCH IN THEIR CHAIRMAN ROLE.

5. AT THIS STAGE, THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE SENAT SHOULD EXHAUST DIRECT CHARTER POSSIBILITIES AND POSSIBILITY OF FRENCH ASSUMING HELPFUL ROLE BEFORE ALLIES GIVE THOUGHT TO PROVIDING ALLIED MILITARY AIRCRAFT. WITH RESPECT TO PAN AM, WE UNDERSTAND FIRST REACTION ITS BERLIN CHIEF GALLAGHER UPON HEARING ABOUT POSSIBLE REQUEST FROM SENAT WAS NEGATIVE.

6. WITH RESPECT TO CAPABILITIES, WE NOTE TEGEL AIRPORT CAPABLE OF HANDLING ANY TYPE 707. TEMPELHOF CAN HANDLE ADVANCED FAN-JET 707 WITH FULL FUEL LOAD AND NO MORE THAN 25 PASSENGERS WITH LITTLE LUGGAGE. GATOW RAFB CAN HANDLE 707, BUT WITH TANKS HALF FULL. HERZ ASKED AND WE REPLIED,

AEROAMERICA HAS NO AIRCRAFT READY TO FLY IN BERLIN AT THIS TIME. WE ARE INFORMING HERZ THAT AERO-AMERICA AIRCRAFT NOW STANDING AT TEGEL IS 720, NOT 707, AND REQUESTS FIVE DAYS ENGINE WORK BEFORE IT CAN TAKE OFF.

7. HERZ HAS HIMSELF RAISED POSSIBILITY OF LUFTHANSA FLIGHT IN CORRIDOR WITH SOVIET APPROVAL OR OUTSIDE CORRIDOR WITH GDR APPROVAL. SAME IDEA COULD OF COURSE BE APPLIED TO AIRPLANES OF OTHER NON-ALLIED CARRIERS. THIS IDEA STRIKES AS POLITICALLY UNDESIRABLE EVEN IF IT PROVED POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN SOVIET OR GDR CONCURRENCE. BESIDES COMPLICATIONS INVOLVED, FACT THAT IN EMERGENCY TOUCHING POLITICS AND SECURITY OF WEST BERLIN IT WAS DECIDED TO APPROACH SOVIETS OR GDR WOULD WEAKEN ALLIED POSITION. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT RODIN TOLD US ACTING POLAD FEBRUARY 28 THAT GDR WAS COOPERATING ON KIDNAPPING PROBLEM.

8. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO WARN THAT ADDITIONAL ALLIED PROBLEM MAY ARISE WHEN CORWDS AND JOURNALISTS DESCEND UPON WHATEVER AIRPORT TERRORISTS DEPART FROM WHILE TERRORISTS INSIST POLICE REMAIN AWAY. TEGEL WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO TEMPELHOF IN THAT RESPECT SINCE IT IS LOCATED AWAY FROM DENSELY POPULATED AREAS AND CROWD CONTROL WILL BE EASIER.

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9. THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES ARE PLAYING THIS SO FAR AS A GERMAN MATTER, AND WE BELIEVE IT DESIRABLE THAT IT BE KEPT THAT WAY EVEN THOUGH, BECAUSE OF ALLIED RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY IN BERLIN, ALLIES WILL IN THE END ALMOST CERTAINLY SHARE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUTCOME OF CASE. GIVEN CLEAR US POLICY IN CASES OF THIS NATURE, SEEMS TO US WE MUST TAKE POSITION WITH BRITISH, FRENCH, AND SENAT THAT US WOULD NOT BE WILLING EITHER TO PROVIDE AN AIRCRAFT FOR ESCAPE OF TERRORISTS OR TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL USG REQUEST TO AN AIRLINE THAT IT DO SO. ON OTHER HAND, WE DO NOT BELIEVE, DESPITE OUR SECURITY ROLE IN BERLIN, THAT USG POLICY WOULD REQUIRE US TO PREVENT USE OF AIR CORRIDORS FOR ESCAPE FLIGHT IF ONE OF OTHER ALLIES IS WILLING TO PROVIDE AIRCRAFT OR SENAT IS ABLE TO ARRANGE FLIGHT DIRECTLY WITH AN AIRLINE. WHETHER OR NOT FRG OR WEST BERLIN AUTHORITIES MIGHT AS A GENERAL PRINCIPLE SHARE VIEW OF USG ON NON-DESIRABILITY OF MEETING RANSOM DEMANDS, THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY ON EVE OF BERLIN ELECTIONS THAT SPD GOVERNMENT WOULD RISK LIFE OF LEADING OPPOSITION CANDIDATE BY APPEARING TO EQUIVAOCATE ON MEETING DEMANDS OF CAPTORS WHO MUST BE ASSUMED TO BE MURDERS.

10. USCOB CONCURS.GEORGE

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